

## **Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

The Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board (Board) met on May 1, 2006, in Hearing Room A at the Public Utilities Commission.

### **Present for the Board were:**

Lawrence Kelly, Chair  
Claira Monier  
Gloria Seldon  
Ken Mailloux  
Larry Ross  
Nathan Cass  
Richard Russman

### **Present for the OCA were:**

F. Anne Ross, Consumer Advocate  
Kenneth E. Traum, Assistant Consumer Advocate  
Steve Merrill, Utility Analyst

### **Invited Speakers were:**

Carrie Cullen Hill, V.P., National Regulatory Government Affairs, Constellation NE  
Garry Long, President PSNH  
George Gantz, Senior V.P. Unitil

Mr. Kelly opened the meeting at 2:03 PM.

#### **1. Minutes**

Motion was made by Mr. Russman to approve the Board Minutes of the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mailloux. The motion was approved.

#### **2. Long Term Energy Policy in NH**

Mr. Kelly turned the meeting over to the OCA Staff to introduce the speakers and explain the process for the next part of the meeting. Ms. Ross introduced the speakers and requested each give a 5-10 minute summary on where they think NH should go in terms of electric deregulation/competition in the future, but first Mr. Traum gave a brief historical prospective on how NH has evolved to its current competitive environment.

George Gantz took the position that NH should be patient. That deregulation and competition will be in the best interests of all. Carrie Hill generally agreed, while

Gary Long felt that while consumers should continue to have choice, PSNH's customers are better served with PSNH's owned generation and the company should be allowed to add more capacity.

The Board members and Staff then proceeded to ask many questions that led to numerous heated exchanges among the speakers. The questions related to conservation, reliability, low income, aggregation, competition or lack thereof for residential consumers, another wood burning plant in the North Country, etc.

At 4 PM Mr. Kelly thanked the Speakers and the Board moved on to the rest of the Agenda.

About 4:10 the PUC experienced a power outage.

Mr. Kelly asked the Board and Staff if there were any items that should be dealt with immediately. Mr. Traum raised the issue of the new Amendment to HB 1690 relating to building a wood burning plant in the North Country. He noted that the most recent Amendment at the Senate Finance Committee would allow the existing wood plants to get involved in the bidding process without making a showing that they would shutdown absent further financial assistance. This might not result in the need for additional wood in the North Country which was the economic driver behind a lot of the push for the Legislation. The Board agreed.

Discussion turned to what the Board should do with regards to what they heard today. Clairra suggested getting more information from the OCA Staff and making part of our next Board meeting a brainstorming session on such. The Board agreed to that and suggested discussing: education, aggregation, generation, fuel mix, how Canada fits in, etc.

Ms. Ross asked if the Board would find it helpful to make a visit to ISO New England's control center located in Holyoke, Massachusetts. The Board was of the opinion that the field trip would be beneficial in educating the members on the operation and structure of the New England Grid. It was agreed that the office would explore setting up the trip in the near future and the optimum day for the visit would be either a Monday or Friday.

Members of the Board also requested that the Staff provide at the next meeting appropriate charts/maps and any other material that would be helpful in educating the Board on the flow of electrical energy starting at the generation source through the transmission system and finally into the distribution system.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 5 at 2 PM at the OCA.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.